

Public Hearing: December 12, 2005

F A C T S H E E T

TITLE: Resolution to Recognize the Southeast Upper Salt Creek Floodprone Areas as Best Available Information

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OPPONENTS: Unknown

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:
Building and Safety
Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

REASON FOR LEGISLATION:

To formally recognize the Southeast Upper Salt Creek 100-year Floodprone Areas as the best available information for local flood regulation purposes.

D I S C U S S I O N

This is a resolution to formally recognize the floodprone areas of Southeast Upper Salt Creek (see attached map) as the best available information for local regulatory purposes, in conformance with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas adopted by the City Council on May 10, 2004. The Flood Standards include the regulation of floodprone areas “as determined by hydrologic and hydraulic studies completed by the City of Lincoln or other governmental agency, or other acceptable source as approved by the City where this is the best available information.”

Technical Study

The City, as a Cooperating Technical Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contracted with a consulting firm to develop revised floodplain mapping for Southeast Upper Salt Creek. The technical floodplain study has been completed, certified by a licensed engineer, and is being reviewed by FEMA. The study has been completed in compliance with FEMA’s Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners.

Additional Floodprone Areas

Currently, none of the channels in the Southeast Upper Salt Creek watershed have a FEMA-mapped floodplain. The detailed study identifies a 100-year floodprone area for approximately 9.5 stream miles. No floodway is identified for local adoption at this time, due to a large portion of the floodprone area being protected by either the South Beltway corridor designation or through the acquisition of conservation easements by the City and NRD in conformance with the SE Upper Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan. In addition, the flood standards for New Growth Areas apply to this stream reach. FEMA will be evaluating and making a determination regarding the floodway issue prior to finalizing and issuing updated FEMA floodplain maps.

This resolution indicates that the Southeast Upper Salt Creek floodprone areas will be utilized as the best available information in any circumstance where this information is more restrictive than the FEMA floodplain or floodway, until such time as the revised FEMA floodplain map is finalized and adopted.

Public Information

Draft floodplain/floodprone area maps for Southeast Upper Salt Creek and its tributary were made available for viewing at two public open houses on Nov 18, 2004 and August 16, 2005. The maps and computer models were made publicly available upon request on August 17, 2005. Approximately 105 notices were mailed to local area property owners as well as to over 400 engineers, developers, governmental agencies, conservation groups and others for each meeting.

Conclusion

Finalization and adoption of the revised FEMA floodplain maps is anticipated to take anywhere from 1-2 years. In the meantime, it is appropriate for the community to utilize the best technical information regarding flood hazards along Southeast Upper Salt Creek to protect future homes and businesses and to insure that any development in the floodprone areas conforms with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: No. This resolution conforms with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas adopted by the City Council in May 2004.

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: None.

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY: Devin Biesecker, Engineer

REVIEWED BY: Karl Fredrickson, Director of Public Works/Utilities